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First responders essential to installation safety

by Valerie Joseph
Public Affairs

Members of Onizuka Air Force Station's first responder team underwent decontamination training Feb. 27 under the guidance of Ron Doss, a hazardous materials specialist with Industrial Emergency Council.



Doss, who is also a San Mateo fire captain, showed the group how to safely secure a leaking drum of hazardous materials, how to rescue an injured person who has been contaminated by hazardous chemicals, and how to decontaminate when the materials have been contained. Trainees were also taught to check each responder's pulse and weight at the end of his or her shift. Doss explained that because the chemical suits the responders wear are self contained and don't "breathe," wearers can lose a large percentage of body fluid depending on outside temperature and length of time wearing the suits.

"If weight loss is 5 percent or more, the person must go to the hospital immediately," Doss said.

"It's essential they look out for each other," he added. "The health and safety of people is our number one priority."

First responders here include active duty people from the 21st Space Operations Squadron, Operating Division 4, SMC/CWNO and Northwest Communications Support Element.

In a training exercise at left, Senior Airman Jennifer Fukunaga and Master Sgt. John Agnew, both with NWCSE, secure the lid on an overpack drum, which contains a drum leaking hazardous chemicals. Below left, Capt. Jerry Joseph, 21 SOPS, and Capt. Scott Waters, OD-4, carry "victim" Ron Doss to safety. Below right, Agnew is hosied down during decontamination. (photos by Valerie Joseph)



SGLI cost reduced; coverage remains same

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) -- The amount airmen pay for Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Family Member SGLI will be automatically reduced starting July 1.

Decreased mortality rates allow for the reductions of 1.5 cents per \$1,000 of coverage for military people and as much as a 42 percent decrease for spouse coverage. The premium for servicemembers with \$250,000 of coverage will decrease from \$20 per month to \$16.25.

"(Veterans Affairs) had a surplus partly because of the low number of claims, and they've decided to pass this surplus on to the servicemember," said Scott Hand, chief of Air Force casualty operations at the Air Force Personnel Center here. "This is a great deal for Air Force people. The price for a little peace of mind has just gone down."

SGLI is the life insurance currently available to all members of the uniformed services. It is purchased by Veterans Affairs from a commercial life insurance company. Members on active duty, active duty for training or inactive duty for training and members of the ready reserve are eligible for insurance through this program. SGLI is available for the member in \$10,000 increments up to a maximum of \$250,000.

Servicemembers who carry any amount of coverage are also given \$10,000 of coverage for each dependent child at no cost. Those who decline SGLI coverage are not eligible for the dependent child coverage.

"Where else can you get free life insurance for your children?" said Hand.

Similar to SGLI is the FSGLI, which covers spouses for up to \$100,000. Participation in the FSGLI program is voluntary and cannot exceed the amount of coverage the servicemember carries.

People can have coverage restored, increased or reduced by filling out the proper paperwork through the military personnel flight.

Registration open for 2003 USAF Marathon

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio (AFPN) -- Registration is under way for the 2003 U.S. Air Force Marathon scheduled here for Sept. 20.

Runner categories have changed slightly from past years. A 5K fun run and a half marathon have been added. There will no longer be a marathon team category. The marathon, four-person Ekiden-style relay team and wheelchair categories remain unchanged.

The Air Force Marathon, traditionally held the third Saturday of September, is open to all levels of marathoners, civilians and military, from all around the world. More than 3,200 runners participate in the marathon representing nearly every state and six countries.

The first U.S. Air Force Marathon was held here Sept. 20, 1997, to coincide with the Air Force's 50th anniversary. U.S.A. Track and Field, the governing body of long-distance running in the United States, certified the course in 1997. Air Force Marathon officials asked for certification in order to assure participants the course is exactly 26 miles, 385 yards.

Runners will receive a uniquely designed T-shirt and patch. Participants who finish the marathon within the eight-hour time limit will receive a medallion.

Reduced fees for early registration are available until June 30. Registration deadline is Sept. 4.

To register or for more information, visit the marathon Web site at <http://afmarathon.wpafb.af.mil/>, or call the marathon office at (800) 467-1823.

Quotable quote

"I go out and I walk the flight-lines of our Air Force throughout the world, wherever we are deployed, and I never cease to be amazed at what I see. I get surprised every single time, at the dedication and the commitment, the patriotism, the sacrifices of our airmen who give of themselves. Is there any doubt we are the greatest Air Force in the world?"

-- Gen. John P. Jumper,
Air Force chief of staff

AMERICA'S AIR FORCE



"No One Comes Close"

Gumbo king



The competition was hot (and spicy), but Theodore Williams, 21 SOPS, emerged victorious, winning first place in the Onizuka Air Force Station Gumbo Cook-off Feb. 27 at the Space Place. Coming in second was Chris Campbell, LMT0, with Ron Parker, 21 SOPS, finishing third. Leslie Raney, 21 SOPS, received an honorable mention. (photo by Valerie Joseph)

General Lord: Professionalism is paramount in workplace

Recent events have again highlighted the importance of stressing professionalism in the workplace. While the command's position of zero tolerance on harassment and discrimination is clear, it is up to us as leaders to continually re-emphasize that message to our people. We often define "zero tolerance" too narrowly. Zero tolerance goes beyond the actions of the perpetrator to include those who knowingly allow such activities to occur ... or who know about such activities and say nothing.

Creating a healthy work environment is everyone's responsibility. Let's make sure this is a priority.

I've said many times before that one of the most important duties of a leader is to create an environment that allows people to excel. A healthy work environment is essential to our mission success. We are all Air Force professionals, and professionals treat each other with respect. We must all work together to create a climate of trust and mutual respect so that together we can achieve maximum results.

EIF scholarships available

Education is Freedom, a new national education organization, founded by 7-Eleven, Inc. president and CEO James W. Keyes, provides funding to U.S. high school seniors or graduates who show academic promise and wish to attend college but do not qualify for financial assistance programs.

Students can apply for scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 to cover the costs of tuition, books and/or fees for the 2003/2004 year.

To be eligible, an applicant must have been a U.S. resident for at least a year at the time of application; be a U.S. high school senior or graduate enrolled for the first time in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an

accredited two- or four-year college or university, and be 24 years of age or younger. Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of merit (grade point average of 3.0 or above), financial need, community service and leadership.

Complete scholarship criteria and the online application form are available at the EIF Web site at www.educationisfreedom.org.

Deadline to register is March 15.

AF revises body modification, mutilation policy

Personal appearance guidelines for Air Force people have been revised in response to a trend involving extreme

body modification and mutilation that is becoming common among a small, yet growing segment of the population.

This change to Air Force Instruction 36-2903, Dress and Personal Appearance of Air Force Personnel, prohibits airmen from altering or modifying their bodies in order to achieve a visible effect that disfigures, deforms or otherwise detracts from a professional military image.

Administrative or disciplinary action will be left up to the discretion of each commander if they feel airmen have done something to themselves that might detract from their professional military image.

See the Air Force Print News article at www.af.mil/news/Feb2003/22003481.shtml for more information.

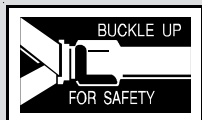
Boost them before you buckle them!

Automobile accidents are the leading cause of death for children from six to 14 years of age. Further, many of these children either weren't wearing their seat belts or were improperly restrained, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For children ages five to 15, proper restraint use is only 68.7 percent, compared with 97 percent from birth to age one and 91 percent for ages one to four. In fact, more than 47 percent of fatally injured children ages four to seven were completely unrestrained.

Many people are unaware that booster seats are available – and needed – for children who have outgrown baby or toddler seats. The NHTSA makes the following recommendations:

-- Children weighing and 80 lbs. and less should be properly



between 40 and 4'9" tall restrained in

eight years old.

-- A child who can't sit with their back straight against the seat cushion with their knees bent over the seat edge or without slouching must use a booster seat.

-- Read the instructions and your vehicle's owner's manual carefully before installing a booster seat.

-- Never use a lap belt across a child sitting in a booster seat.

-- Never put the shoulder belt behind a child's arm or back. This eliminates protection for the upper part of the body and increases the risk of severe injury in a crash.

-- Never use pillows, books or towels to boost a child since these items can slide around.

-- Children ages 12 and under should sit properly restrained in the back seat.

-- Never place a child in a child safety seat in the front seat of a vehicle equipped with a passenger air bag.



WANIU wins team of year award

Congratulations to the Wide Area Network Interface Unit team for winning the 2002 Space and Missile Systems Center System Program Office Team of the Year Award.

The collective efforts of many people at SMC/CWNO, 21 SOPS, AFSPC and Lockheed Martin made possible the implementation of a communications upgrade that is now supporting the warfighter every day.

The WANIU upgrade provides point-to-point ATM communications between remote ground facilities and operational control nodes and replaces the Wideband DSIS, MDM-100 and Narrowband equipment in all RGFs and OCNs. The ability of the WANIU to autotrack data rate changes on isochronous data channels allows the deployment of relatively stable connections between the RGF and OCNs. Control and monitor of the WANIU system is performed through local operator actions via the WANIU local controller of an associated suite of WANIUs.

Women's History Month

In 1978, Women's History Week was established by the Educational Task Force of Sonoma County to address the lack of women's history studies in public schools. In 1979, a congressional resolution declared the week of March 8 as Women's History Week. In 1987, Congress expanded the recognition to the entire month of March as Women's History Month. In 1992, a presidential proclamation directed the national celebration.

This year's theme, "Women Pioneering the Future," incorporates both pioneering women from U.S. history who led and won struggles for equality and civil rights; created and advanced educational and professional opportunities; and made great contributions to the arts, sciences, and humanistic causes; and innovative women of today who further these efforts and continue to expand the frontiers of possibility for generations to come.

The 2003 National Women's History Month honorees, in alphabetical order, are: Rebecca Adamson, Rachel Carson, Linda Chavez-Thompson, Mae C. Jemison, Yuri Kochiyama, Tania Leon, Robin Roberts, Harilyn Rousso, Margaret Chase Smith, Wilma L. Vaught and Rebecca Walker.

Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught spoke at Onizuka Air Force Station's Women's History Month luncheon in 1991. She is one of the most highly decorated military women in United States history and has pioneered opportunities for the women who followed her and helped ensure that their courage and bravery would not be forgotten. She spearheaded the Women In Military Service to America (WIMSA) memorial efforts.

To learn more about National Women's History Month and events in the area, go to www.nwhp.org/events/events.html.

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The San Francisco Bay Area Federal Women's Program Managers' Council is sponsoring a training conference for Women's History Month. The conference will be held March 20 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Oakland Federal Building, 1301 Clay St. Registration is \$20 and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Contact Linda LaVigne, ext. 3840, or Stephanie Padilla, ext 4755, for registration forms.

*Happy
St. Patrick's
Day*

March 17



Policyholders may get payments

WASHINGTON (AFPN) -- Academy Life Insurance Co. officials are seeking an estimated 110,000 current and former servicemembers who may be eligible to receive payments from a fund established as part of a settlement it reached with the Justice Department on Dec. 19.

The company mailed notices and payment applications to the last address it has for thousands of former policyholders it believes are eligible. Notices were mailed in February.

Eligible persons have until June 24 to file. After that deadline, applications will not be considered.

The payments of up to \$200 per policy are part of a \$160 million settlement reached after the Justice Department filed a civil complaint against Academy Life for defrauding servicemembers from 1991 to 1998. The complaint alleged the insurers sold more than 92,000 policies of a particular life insurance plan to servicemembers and their families between 1993 and 1998 and reaped more than \$200 million in premiums. Academy Life has not admitted to any improper actions.

As part of the settlement the company will pay more than \$2.7 million to persons who purchased their policies from 1991 to 1998.

Academy Life also agreed in the settlement to never again sell another insurance policy in the United States or ask the Department of Defense for permission to conduct business on U.S. military installations.

Former policyholders must meet all the following conditions to be eligible for payment from the settlement fund:

- The person was the last owner of a Genesis Series policy issued from Jan. 1, 1991, through Dec. 31, 1998.
- The policy terminated before Sept. 30, 2002.
- No death benefit was paid under the policy.
- The person was living on Sept. 30, 2002.

See Policy, Page 6

NEWS NOTES

Bake sale

A bake sale will be held March 11 at 6:30 a.m. in the main lobby to raise



money for the base picnic this summer.

Contact Linda LaVigne, ext. 3840, or Evelyn Asprer, ext. 6579. Donations and buyers are needed!

Labor relations seminar

A seminar titled, "Dealing with the Union" will be held March 12 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Space Place. Managers and supervisors will benefit from this free seminar. Bring your lunch if you'd like.

Golf clinic

The Moffett Golf Course is holding a free golf clinic on rules and etiquette March 12 at 4 p.m. Call 650-603-8026 for more information.



Golf scramble

A 9-hole scramble will be held at the Moffett Golf Course March 13 at 1 p.m. This is a four-person scramble, and the cost is \$15. Call 650-603-8026 for more information.

Military, civilian W-2s available on myPay

American military members and Department of Defense civilians can now view, save and print their W-2 wage and tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

Military retirees and annuitants can view, save and print their tax form 1099s as well.

The myPay service provides a secure way for servicemembers, defense civilians, military retirees and annuitants to manage their pay account information.

Customers can also help the Department of Defense save money by volunteering to turn off the print copy of their leave and earnings statements and checking it online. The Defense Department can save up to 34 cents for each LES that is delivered electronically instead of in hard copy.

SECAF, CSAF: War requires team effort

by Master Sgt. Rick Burnham
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- Despite dramatic successes in recent armed conflicts, the Air Force would only present a portion of the forces brought to bear against Iraq, if indeed war is needed to disarm the forces of Saddam Hussein.

Winning such a conflict will require a team effort, said Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche, bringing together the combined efforts of not only each of the nation's armed services but reserve forces and their civilian employers as well.

The secretary's comments came last month during an interview with correspondents from Washington-based radio station WTOP. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper joined him during the broadcast, which included questions from call-in listeners around the national capital region.

"Although we'll use airpower right off the bat," Roche said, "our armed services fight as a team."

Jumper agreed, adding that recent advancements in technology will produce some very significant results.

"We never fight alone," the general said. "It's a coordinated effort among all the services, and we certainly do our part. But we never pretend that it's all about airpower. We're going to go in there, if the president asks us to do this, with much more striking power than we've had in the past, certainly more than we saw in Desert Storm. I think you're going to be very surprised and pleased with what you see."

That improved striking power will require a powerful blend of airpower from a variety of different sources, Roche said.

"It's a combat air force, not just the Air Force," the secretary said. "It will also be naval air and Marine Corps aviation, so it's the combat air force of the United States. We will certainly do our best to fulfill what (U.S. Central Command Commander Gen. Tommy R. Franks) wants us to do as part of combat air force as an airpower."

Also, Jumper said, there are many requirements on the ground that an aircrew simply cannot accommodate.

"Nobody in an airplane is going to be able to dig somebody out of a foxhole," the general said. "You need the balance ... you need to be prepared to take whatever measures are required to obtain that objective."

And that includes measures by civilian employers, whose sacrifices in support of Guard and Reserve call-ups have become commonplace in recent years, particularly since Sept. 11, 2001. Jumper called those sacrifices an absolute key to the success of America's armed forces.

"We can't tell you how thankful we are for all the employers out there who let go of some of their best people to put on the uniform and come on active duty," he said. "You can't tell the difference (between active duty and Reserve) when you are out there."

It is all about the "total force concept," Roche said, a prescription for success when it comes to armed conflict.

"We have had a total force concept for some time that works very, very well," he said. "We can do things with our active force immediately and not have to rely on the Reserves or Guard, but if we start to do a lot then we very much do rely on the Guard and Reserves. But instead of them having unique, niche roles, they do everything that the rest of the Air Force does and so therefore they add to it."

For a complete transcript of the interview, go to www.issues.af.mil/speeches/SECAF_CSAF_WTOP.htm.

Air Force identifies new race categories

Airmen can now identify more than one race in their official personnel files because of a change in how the Air Force records racial information. The new categories are part of a government-wide effort to standardize race data.

In the past, airmen could select only one race preference. Now, they will be able to select any number of five newly designated race groups. The revamped choices are American Indian or Alaska native, Asian, black or African-American, native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander and white.

People can view and update their racial designation on the Virtual Military Personnel Flight by clicking the "vMPF" button at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/. Race choices and descriptions of the new categories are located on the "personal information" page under the "records review" link.

Some categories will automatically be re-designated. "Asian/Pacific Islander" will be converted to the "Asian" category, and the former "other" and "unknown" options will be switched to the new "declined to respond" category.

See the Air Force Print News article at www.af.mil/news/Feb2003/21003301.shtml for more information.



The Onizuka Orbiter's free classified section is for members of the Onizuka/Moffett communities. To run an ad, fax it to: (408) 752-6082 or e-mail to valerie.joseph@onizuka.af.mil.

If you want your ad to run longer, please resubmit or contact Public Affairs at (408) 752-4035.

Policy, from Page 4

-- The person accurately completes an application for payment and mails it to Academy Life by June 24.

-- Academy Life verifies eligibility.

For more information on eligibility requirements or a notice and application, call Academy Life at (800) 523-5625.

Deployment offers tax options; not filing not one of them

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFPN) -- Mobilized Air Force reservists deploying overseas are not automatically excused from filing their federal income tax return, according to Air Force Reserve Command staff judge advocate officials here.

Deploying reservists have four options when it comes to filing taxes. They can file before they leave, authorize a spouse or trusted friend to sign and file for them, have a non-military or non-deploying spouse sign and file a joint tax return on their behalf, or use an extension if authorized.

If reservists have not received their Form W-2 in the mail before deploying, they can access it online by using a personal identification number via "My Pay" on the Defense Finance

and Accounting Service Web site at <https://emss.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>.

Most active-duty locations offer a tax-assistance program. Servicemembers can electronically file their returns and opt for direct deposit of any refund into their checking accounts.

If a reservist wants to allow someone else to sign and file his return, he must: be absent from the United States for at least 60 days before the due date for filing the return, be unable to sign the return because of disease or injury, or get permission from the Internal Revenue Service office in the area to have another person file on his behalf.

Reservists can authorize their agents to sign and file by using a special power of attorney or by using IRS Form 2848, which is available on



the Web at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-fill/f2848.pdf.

If filing a joint return, a special power of attorney or IRS Form 2848 is not required. Married couples filing separate returns cannot use this option.

Deployed military people can usually take advantage of a filing extension for service in a combat zone or qualified hazardous duty area. Before claiming these extensions, reservists should check with a tax preparer or a legal assistance officer to ensure that the area where they are deployed has been declared a combat zone or qualified hazardous-duty area.

To find out what a state requires when reservists are deployed, they should consult with a tax preparer or a legal assistance officer. Some states have rules that are similar to the federal rules. (Courtesy of AFRC News Service)

Onizuka Orbiter

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Submissions to the Orbiter may be delivered to Bldg. 1002, room 503, or sent via e-mail to valerie.joseph@onizuka.af.mil. Submissions will be edited to conform to Associated Press style guidelines. For additional information, call Public Affairs at (408) 752-4035.

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